

MEDIA RELEASE
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LET'S GO BIRDING!
GREAT DISMAL SWAMP BIRDING FESTIVAL

SUFFOLK, VA (April 25, 2012) Grab your binoculars and let's go birding! The 6th Annual Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival is slated for May 10-12, 2012. Don't fret—the Great Dismal Swamp is anything but *dismal*. This fascinating ecosystem is home to over 200 species of birds, black bear, bobcats, river otters, insects, reptiles and amphibians. Covering over 112,000 acres of natural wilderness, the Great Dismal Swamp is an ideal spot to glimpse migratory birds. Held annually, the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival includes guided bird walks for experts and beginners, narrated bus tours to Lake Drummond, bird banding demonstrations, owl prowls, workshops and children's activities. Workshops include presentations about Great Dismal history and photographing nature. New for 2012 is Canoe Birding along the Dismal Swamp Canal and Lake Drummond. Guided walks and tours require reservations. All events and activities are free and open to the public. Call 757-986-3705 for information and reservations.

The host hotel for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront in downtown Suffolk, offering birders a discounted rate of \$89 per night plus tax. The Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival is sponsored and produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Great Dismal Swamp Coalition, Suffolk Division of Tourism and the Chesapeake Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information, visit Suffolk-Fun.com

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